

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 H-02 L-02 /024 W

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R 160820Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2723

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2129

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, RO

SUBJ: TRADE COMPLAINT: FRANKLIN SQUARE OVERSEAS, INC.

REF: STATE A-1832, MARCH 17

1. EMBOFF MET WITH IONAS OF ROMPRESFILATELIA MAY 15, MENTIONING CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE CASE. IONAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS ORDERS WERE VALID, EVEN THOUGH NO FORMAL CONTRACT HAD BEEN SIGNED. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN CANCELLED ONLY BECAUSE GOR SUBSEQUENTLY AND SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUDGET FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PERIODICALS FOR 1975.

2. ROMPRESFILATELIA EXPECTS TO FIND A WAY TO COVER FRANKLIN SQUARE'S ACTUAL COSTS FOR THESE TRANSACTIONS, BUT DOES NOT AGREE TO REMIT THE ENTIRE SUM OF \$19,194.13 BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE MOST OF THE PERIODICALS WERE, IN FACT, CANCELLED AND ARE NOT BEING SHIPPED TO ROMANIA. EMBOFF NOTED THE RULES ON CANCELLATIONS INCLUDED WITH BLOCK'S LETTER TO SENATOR WILLIAMS, BUT ROMPRESFILATELIA EXPECTS FRANKLIN SQUARE HAS BEEN ABLE TO RECOVER MUCH OF THE COST OF THE ORDER. ROMPRESFILATELIA NEEDS A DETAILED LISTING OF THE PUBLIC-ATIONS ACTUALLY CANCELLED, INCLUDING THE DATES ON WHICH THESE TOOK EFFECT, TO ENABLE ROMPRESFILATELIA TO DETERMINE ITS NET OBLIGATION TO FRANKLIN SQUARE. WITHOUT IT, THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO REQUEST A SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOCATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE. IONAS NOTED THAT HE WAS CONTINUING TO CORRESPOND WITH FRANKLIN SQUARE AND THAT ROMPRESFILATELIA HAS HAD A LONG BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMPANY WHICH THEY HOPED WOULD CONTINUE.

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3. COMMENT: PART OF THE PROBLEM APPARENTLY AROSE FROM THE BRIEF AND RATHER VAGUE CORRESPONDENCE FROM ROMPRESFILATELIA (INCLUDING THEIR LETTER TO FRANKLIN SQUARE OF APRIL 7, SUBSEQUENT TO RESNIR), WHICH SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT ROMPRESFILATELIA DENIED ITS OBLIGATIONS COMPLETELY AND WHICH DID NOT OFFER

A SOLUTION. UNFORTUNATELY THIS IS TYPICAL OF ROMANIAN FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS CORRESPONDENCE.

WE ARE FORWARDING COPIES OF BLOCK'S LETTER TO SEN. WILLIAMS TO IONAS AND TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IF THE US FIRM WILL DOCUMENT ITS EXPENSES MORE PRECISELY IT WILL BE ABLE TO RECOVER MUCH OF THE DAMAGE THROUGH DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH ROMPRESFILATELIA.

4. ROMPRESFILATELIA HAS BEEN MERGED INTO THE FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION ILEXIM, ALTHOUGH ITS ADDRESS, PERSONNEL AND LEGAL COMMITMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN CHANGED.  
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